LONDON LIFE.

Irving's Latest Success as Shylcek.

MISS THURSBY'S FAREWELL.

A French Painter Immortaliz. ing a Zulu Fight.

LONDON, Nov. 4, 1879. First nights at the Lyceum are now part and parof London life. No one who has any sympathy ith art and literature is absent if he can help it; part of those who want to get inside it on the occa-tion of a new addition to the series of revivals which Mr. Irving has already presented to his audiences. The "Flying Dutchman" and the "Iron Chest" were many of Mr. Irving's admirers will not admit the possibility of failure in anything he undertakes. The announcement that the "Merchant of Venice" nuch enthusiasm, for it was admitted on all hands that Shylock was quite in Mr. Irving's line, and it was confidently foretold that even his Richard III. and Louis XI. would be as nothing compared to his Shylock. To judge from the first night alone the prophecy nust be true, for never did the walls of a theatre ontsin such an enthusiastic multitude as was Irving and Miss Terry were not applauded merely; they were cheered in a most startling manner. The reigner who has heard that English audiences are cold and undemonstrative would have been astounded That there would be an immense "house" was taken for granted, and Mr. Irving had had circulars printed he requested that if the ticket was not wunted it should be returned, as the "pressure for places had been so unduly great that he would deem any assistace in the difficulty as a personal favor."

There was a shout of applause when the curtain ose upon that familiar Vonetian picture, the south the plazetta. On the left of the spectator a trading felucea lay at the quay; the sailors were carrying looking bales of merchandise ashore, while ers loafed about making purchases and bargaining with the landsmen. Presently, when Antonio, the merchant, and his companions came on to the ppearance of having stepped out of old pictures, he realism and brightness of the scene were per-ect. When Mr. Irving came on there ensued a prolonged burst of applause which stopped the play for several minutes, during which his appearance and make up could be keenly examined. A grave, pale man, with thin, long grizzled beard and hair, clad in gaterdine of brown, and black pouch at side, and staff in hand, with quick, restless eyes and ever moving eyebrows. Such was the new Shylock which London has so impatiently wished to see. The first scene was not half ended before the conay went on and the mingled dignity and cupidity nd power until the climax, when the sudden frus still, the audience evidently recognized the fulfil-ment of its most hopeful anticipations. In the scene of the trial Mr. Irving's bearing was that of a man who "stood there for law"—calm, upright, Antonio called forth the fierce words of hate and re-venge. The "business" of this scene has never been equalled on the English stage for thoroughness and

estiano has given utterance to his last brutal est. He slowly turns his face toward his torthen, slowly and contemptuously, commencing at his very feet, the eyes are raised until they meet the gay young gallant in a look of mingled hate and scorn. swiftly the look dies out, and the cries from the mob outside as the Jew makes his way into the street. The whole of this marvellous and exciting scene is presented with a power and completeness which positively makes one think that so long as such things can be so done on at least one stage in England there is not so much need after all of a national theatre. As for Miss Terry's Portia, it is an impersonation about which English playsoers fairly rave. "Matchless!" "Porfect!" "Lovely!" "Delightful!" "Unrivalled at any period!" Such are the expressions which at once break forth when the subject is mentioned. I am bound to say that a visit to the Lyceum proves them to be justified so far as a man with ordinary theatrical experience can judge. All that is charming and tender and graceful in woman is concentrated in Miss Terry's Portia and Ophelia, and the former character gives her an opportunity to show some of the prettiest comedy conceivable, as in the badinage with her maid about her suitors and the assumption of manly awager and stride when she propounds her plans for the donning of male attire. The scene of the choosing of the caskets was managed with the greatest taste. No more charming picture has ever been presented than that which the stage of the Lyceum affords when Bassanio stands in the curtained recess, with the three coffers before him, while Portia follows his every movement and word with cager anxiety, soft music heard behind the while:—

Fading in music.

I have dweit long upon this very important dramatic event because any letter written now purporting to give a reflection of London life which did not take full notice of it would miss a thoroughly characteristic incident. One of the signs of the times here is the extraordinary development of dramatic enthusiasm, as a proof of which I may mention that of the new annual called "The Stage Door," published last week, 40,000 copies were sold in two days.

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BIGNOLD AT DRURY LANE.

George Rignold, now so familiar in New York and the United States, but so long an absentee from London that he has been well nigh forgotten here, made his public reappearance on his native heath on Saturday mith. Though Rignold is little known "Henry V." is a more or less familiar spectacle. Calvert put it on the stage with great magnificence a few years ago, and Coleman more recently produced it at the Queen's. But Rignold's arrangement is superior to both of the earlier presentations. The audience which greated Mr. Rignold in the historic old Drury Lane Theatre was very large and very enthusiastic. About his performance it would be impossible to say anything you do not know already. He seems not a single degree changed since at Booth's Theatre he first stormed Harfleur and fought on the field of Agincourt. It is said—whether by critics who are intentionally hostile I do not know—that Rignold does not expect to make money during this engagement; expects, in fact, to lone, and only desires to bring himself back to the remembrance of those who may have forgotten him. He has taken Drury Lane until Christmas, and if his audiences continue to be as large as the first night he will be agreeably disappointed.

Miss THURSEN'S PAREWELL.

Miss Emma Thursby whose voice has been winning its way to many English hearts, is about to return to America. Last night she was given a benefit at Rivière's Covent Garden Promenade Concerts. The stalis and boxes were filled with Americans, and American flags fluttered in various parts of the auditorium. The audience was large and the concert one of the most interesting of the series. All the singers were English, however, save Miss Thursby and Mr. Carlton, the latter of whom sang very finely the toredor's song from "Carmen," in which he is now justing with success at Her Majesty's Opera. Miss Kate Field,

Histone had said about America and the Americans, and then he proceeded to being uses of the evening. Miss Thursby sails for America on Monday, November 10.

MMORTALINEN THE HEROIC DEEPS.

After the success which attended the exhibition of M. De Newville's picture of "Le Bourget"—that disastrous saily of the garrison of Paris—no one was surprised to hear that, although he is a Frenchman. It is a few to the control of the control of the Calul war, of commission to paint an episodice hear the last. In the fight of Le Bourget the artist himself took part, and he and the Russian battle painter. Verestchagine, are among the few who can hight like brave soldiers one day and paint like artists himself took part, and he and the Russian battle painter. Verestchagine, are among the few who can hight like brave soldiers one day and paint like artists himself took part, and mealte bag fortress—one time been busy collecting sufficient and trustworthy information, and came to London with the rough sketch, which he submitted to Major Chard and others, wishing to leave no stone unturned to secure the necessary fidelity of incident and landscape. In this he has been much added, for the War Office has offored to supply samples of the weapons and uniforms, and had been added, for the War Office has offored to supply samples of the weapons and uniforms, and had been added, for the War Office has offored to apard of it and exclaimed:—That is the very spot when the control of the personal experiences of the two heroes.

When Major Chard first saw the sketch, which was placed on an easel in his room in Pall Mail, he pointed to a part of it and exclaimed:—That is the very spot when we have a second to the pointed to a part of it and exclaimed:—That is the very spot when the process of the second p

FATHERS OF THE HOUSE.

MENT WHO ARE ENTITLED TO BE CONSIDERED "FATHERS OF THE HOUSE."

[From the London Daily Telegraph.]
Will the new House of Commons, when it comes
into existence, contain any member who was first of 1832? The last few years have played havoc among very old members of Parliament, and the death of Mr. Henry Corry, in the April of 1873, made room for his successor as Father of the House in the person of General Cecil Forester, who was himself removed to the Upper House by the death of his elder brother, Lord Forester, in October, 1874. The place vacated by General Forester was filled by its present occupant, Mr. Christopher Rice Mansel Talbot, who has held his seat for the county of Glamorgan by unbroken tenure since 1830, and with whom Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton-now member for West Cheshire, but firs elected for Chester in 1830—shares the dis-tinction of having belonged to the House of Commons in the days when Birmingham and Leeds, being unrepresented, were of less account in the body politic than Gatton and Old Sarum. It will thus be seen that the House still contains two members-one of them liberal and the other conservative—who were first sent to Parliament nearly half a century since, and of whom Mr. Talbot has

always represented the same constituency. His contemporary, Sir Philip Egerton, on the other hand, was defeated when standing for Cheshire in 1831, and, having been out of Parliament until 1835, he would lose sill claim to the patriarchal honors surrendered by Mr. Taibot if—which we sincerely hope will not be the case—he should refuse again to come forward, on the arrival of the dissolution, for that seat which he has honorably occupied for well nigh fifty years. On the 19th of April, 1873, there appeared in these columns a letter from the Earl of Strafford, written upon the occasion of Mr. Henry Corry's death, in which the grandson of Mr. George Byng, of Middlesex, pointed out the exact conditions necessary to bestow upon a Member of Parliament the honor of being regarded as Father of the House. "I have always understood," remarked our noble correspondent, "that a claim to the title of Father of the House of Commons rested, as in the case of my excellent friend, the venerable member for Much Wenlock, on an uninterrupted tenure of a seat in Parliament. If this be so Mr. Coke, of Norfolk, was never Father of the House, as an interval occurred at least once in his Parliamentary career, when, in 1784, he suffered defeat among the band of patriots who were facetiously described as "fox's Martyrs." The right of George Byng to the designation was indisputable, as he represented the county of Middlesex from 1789, when he succeeded to the vacancy occasioned by the death of his father, until the day of his own death in 1847." Fifty-eight years, the face of the House of Commons can boast. Prior to 1830 no Member of Parliament among those who have still scats was chosen for its representative by an English, Seotch or Irish constituency; and we have aircady shown that, with the exceptions of Mr. Taibot and Sir Philip Egerton, there is no member who entered the House of Commons, upon retiring from that honor, either into the grave or into the secure and tranquil haven of the House of Lords in 1874. Since the passage of the

THE RUSSIAN DEFEAT.;

How the Tekke Turcomans Fight.

THE GEOK TEPE AFFAIR.

Heroic Nomads on the Warpath.

The battle of Geok Tepe, in which the Bussians received a check by a large force of Tekke Turcothe Commander-in-Chief, General Lomakin; the chief of the infantry, Major General Borch; the head of the cavalry, Prince Witgenstein; the commander of the advance guard, Colonel Prince Dolgoroucki; the chief of the staff, Colonel decision was arrived at to penetrate the Bemin defile, to invade the Tekke ossis and to conquer the and rood supply being in a far from brilliant condi-tion it was recognized that there was a chance of striking a crushing blow against the Tekkes, all of whom had left their fortified encampments and had collected at two points, at Dengil Tepe, in number 20,000 warriors, and at Askabat in a body of as many more. It was calculated that a general engagement might place them under subjection for ever to Russian rule. This determination of the Council of War Although the troops, not having slept all night, were fatigued, their spirit was nevertheless excelent, and they advanced singing and playing impromptu Bussian airs, one of them being about the Tekkes, and beginning, 'Ah, you rascals, the Turks we have thrashed, and now we come to pay you out also.' The officers discussed the fighting of the Tekkes in groups, examined plans, talked of taking Askabat, and some even in thought already saw themselves in Merv, storming place we received a despatch from the staff that the Tekkes were showing themselves in large numbers. General joy! Songs were sung, shouts were raised, rifles were examined and re-volvers loaded. The commander of the column thought it necessary to feel the enemy, and 120 Cossacks and 120 Samata horse were sent in front. The Tekkes, galloping on their swift horses like lightning, swept them back, and the latter, returning, led the enemy upon drove them away with thirty killed, our own less being seven. The vigilance of Count Borch saved

and pushed on, our pace being checked by the 'wagenburg.'

PREPARES TO STORM.

"At length the avant-garde reached the front positions of the enemy and prepared to storm the nearest one, which was 500 paces from it. The Tekkes crowded out, shouting 'Alla il Allah!' They advanced within 200 yards, many of our soldiers thinking they were going to surrender. At that moment the commander of the cavairy, Prince Witgenstein, gave orders for two sotnias (240 men) of the Daghestan Horse and two squadrons of dragoons, with the rocket corps, to attack a mill on the left which had just been occupied by the enemy. The charge was successful; the Tekkes were cleared out, leaving several bodies behind them. Let me give a type of an attacking Turcoman. Figure to yourself a well built, tail man, with a swarthy face, beard as black as coal, dark shaggy a swartny isc., oearu as oloci as coal, dark snaggy eyebrows, small glistening block cyes, a sword reeking with blood and and the state of the state

THREE AMNESTIED NIHILISTS

HOW THREE NOBLE CONSPIRATORS WERE EX-ILED TO SIBERIA AND THEIR RELEASE AT-TEMPTED-THE ATTEMPT AND THE DENOUE-

Through the intercession of some kindly courtiers, who have gone to work through the proper channels, an amnesty has been obtained for three stu-dents whom we may call Ivan, Serge and Paul, who, procure when once the application had been made in the right quarter; but it took five years Countess Kismikwik, sister of the eldest student two friends, nobody could tell her for certain whether these three lads were alive. The Countess her inquiries, and, as she was fair to look upon, the chief clerks and other high functionaries constantly requested her to call again. In the course of these some other things besides the pardons; she got sevfather and a deputy provincial governorship for her husband, whom she had left establishing a vodki distillery on his estate. Having thus gathered slittle influence in St. Petersburg the Countess was at length able to ascertain that her brother and his friends Section, under her own eyes, for their instant libera-tion. It takes about three months to get such an order conveyed to the convict colony of Ortalav, beployed in the labor of road cutting, and the Countess was informed that another three months would for his conveyance by special sieighs. The Countess was averse to intrusting any Russian officials with money, and so said, with a smile, that she felt consident the best would be done for her sake to bring back her brother as soon as possible. She got promises enough to fill both ears, and thereupon went about her business. She did not care enough about her brother to be particular as to whether he returned a month or two sooner or later; for she had not seen much of him during her girlhood, and sympathized little with his ideas; but she thought it "bad form" to have a brother in Siberia, and on that account had labored to get him amnested along with his two friends, whom she did not know at all; but then she feared they might accuse her brother of being a spy unless they were included in his pardon.

EUROPEAN TABLE TALK:

Gossip from Clubs, Cafes and Conditorein.

KINGS IN EXILE.

Princes and Bull Fighters, Ministers and Ladies of Fashion.

As regards Prince Bismarck's illness, the Cologne and that it is nothing new if the Chancellor has sent for his physician, and if the latter has been staying with him at Varzin for a few days, for the Prince seeks the aid of this trusty doctor at every little

mercial Expedition, states that King John of Abys-sinia has detained as prisoner the Catholic Vicar

sinia has detained as prisoner the Catholic Vicar Apostolic in the Gallas country—Mgr. Massaia.—whom King Menelek had sent to him on some mission. Signor Blanchi had not been allowed to see the prisoner, who, however, is not in danger of anything worse than expulsion.

London World:—"Frascuelo, the torero whom all Madrid escorted the other day to his grave, is stated to have left a fortune of close upon £80,000, exclusive of a fine mansion in the Spanish capital, several houses at Seville and a quantity of diamonds. Of the latter one set of buttons alone, with which he was presented by the ex-Queen Isabelia at the close of a fineion real, is worth \$10,000, while some of the dresses he were on such occasions, embroidered with silver and pearls, cost him 20,000 reals."

M. Gambetta took formal possession, on the 4th

One little baby came floating down in the mi of the stream, safely borne along in its cradle, poor little thing quietly playing with its toes. Y great care and caution a rope was thrown over it it was safely brought to the side, and the baby saved. No parents have been found to own Should none be found to claim it, a nobleman expressed his desire to adopt it. At Murcis a m was brought out through the roof of his house; had been three hours with the water up to his ch holding aloft his two children, one in each hall is wife had been swept away before his eyes, w no chance of saving her. But reports of individu cases would fill a volume.

CETYWAYO'S CHIEF SUCCESSOR.

Simple of the control depot, however, better at the control of the